

You don't need to invade a country to prove that America is strong or to keep America safe. That's the heart of my SMART security plan that I have been talking about for many years now. We've tried belligerence. We've tried force. And over the last decade—well, actually, we've tried all of this forever, and it just has not worked.

It's time, Mr. Speaker, for this war to end. It's time to implement a SMART security platform. It is time now, Mr. Speaker.

HONORING AMERICAN HERO LANCE CORPORAL JUSTIN GAERTNER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. NUGENT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great son of Trinity, Florida, Corporal Justin Gaertner of the United States Marine Corps First Combat Engineer Battalion. I have had the honor of getting to know Justin over the past year, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to share his story.

After being deployed to Afghanistan, Justin took on one of the most dangerous jobs there is in the Marine Corps. He was the lead sweeper, clearing roads of IEDs in advance of U.S. vehicles.

On November 26, 2010, Justin's unit was traveling with an eight-truck convoy. One of the trucks struck an IED. Following the explosion, one of Justin's good friends, Corporal Gabriel Martinez, lost both of his legs in a second IED attack while he rushed to aid that downed vehicle. Justin desperately wanted to help his friend, but his responsibility was to continue the mission, to continue to sweep for IEDs to ensure the safety of the rest of the convoy. It was during the sweep that a third IED was remotely detonated as Justin had just entered that area. The explosion propelled Justin into the air and took both of his legs and severely injured one of his arms. Justin paid a terrible price that day while helping to protect fellow marines.

When I first met Justin at Walter Reed Army Hospital in January of this year, he was more concerned about his brother marines that were still in country than he was about his own safety. He wanted to return to that company of marines to help ensure the safety of his fellow marines that were still left in Afghanistan. That's what heroes do. He's since made an incredible recovery while at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, but that was with the help of dedicated medical staff, the support of his mother and his family and of fellow marines. Justin is getting stronger every day.

When I first met Justin in January of this year, he told me one of his future goals was to compete in a marathon. Today I'm proud to announce that this past weekend, less than 1 year since he was wounded in combat, Justin completed the 2011 Marine Corps Marathon

in the hand crank division in 2 hours, 50 minutes, and 39 seconds. Justin and his family have been an inspiration to me and make us all proud to be Americans because of their sacrifice on the battlefield.

On behalf of a grateful Nation, I want to take this opportunity to again thank Justin for his bravery and his sacrifice on behalf of his Nation. And I want to thank all the troops that have been in harm's way, that have volunteered to protect this great Nation at great risk to themselves.

SHADES OF GREEN

IN HONOR OF AN AMERICAN HERO, LANCE CORPORAL JUSTIN GAERTNER, 1ST COMBAT ENGINEER BATTALION, THE UNITED STATES MARINES

Shades . . .

Shades of Green . . .

On battlefields of honor bright . . .

There are but all of those who but bring their most magnificent light . . .

As Brilliant, as brilliant . . . as any seen in this sight!

All in their Magnificent Shades of Green!

For these are but, The United States Marines!

Such men of might, who over evil do all in the darkest fights!

Rushing into the face of death, as they are seen!

Oh yes, to be a United States Marine!

To but wear so proudly, those most Magnificent Shades of Green!

As it was in battle . . . All in that fight . . .

When a Combat Engineer, with nerves of steel . . . Named Justin so appeared . . .

The kind of men who have no fear!

As Justin, walked through the Valley of Death . . . out on attack . . .

When, an IED . . . Almost took his life . . .

While, all in that moment of death or light . . . his fine heart grew even greater in sight!

And on that next day as he awoke . . . as his heart to him so spoke . . .

So spoke to him, as tears rolled down his face . . .

As he so realized, the full nature of what had took place . . .

But, this Strong Son of the South . . . would not so give up now . . .

Wiping the tears from his face, shining even brighter on that day!

All in those Shades of Green . . . as his new battle was under way!

As they took his legs, and most of his arm . . . but not take his heart that day!

As something so told him deep inside, get up and start running now . . .

As with his great heart, his first new steps he found!

To find the faith and courage to so move onward now!

Because Marines Do! And Marines Win!

And failure was not an option, to any of them!

As one of Florida's brightest sons,

He said to himself, I will stand and I will run!

Pity get out of the way, I've got miles to go before I'm done!

Justin time, as his brave heart so began to run!

Taking him to even greater places and heights where mere men have never gone!

Because Marines climb mountains

Marines climb walls . . .

Marines always stand tall!

As there you go Justin, running to recovery!

Oh what a discovery, an even brighter Shade of Green!

As Justin You Will Teach Us . . .

As Justin, You Will So Beseech Us . . .

As it's so deep down in our hearts Justin, that you will reach us!

All in what your life means!

And if I had a son, I wish he could so shine half as bright as this one!

All in his most magnificent Shades of Green!

As one day too Justin, up in heaven you will be seen!

As an Angel, all because of how you so wore and so carried yourself . . .

All in those most magnificent Shades of Green!

Ooo . . . Rah!

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF LABOR UNIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, nearly 25 million Americans are currently unemployed or underemployed; yet despite this disparaging rate, efforts to strengthen the workforce are being derailed by special interest attacks on the middle class and workers. In Wisconsin, Governor Scott Walker has taken away nearly all collective bargaining rights from the majority of the State's public employees.

An Ohio referendum on State Senate Bill 5 aims to strip public workers of collective bargaining rights. For the 4 years prior to the enactment of Ohio's collective bargaining law, the State led the Nation in safety forces work stoppages. When the city and its safety forces had a dispute concerning wages, working conditions, and adequate staffing, there was no way to resolve the dispute. That is why the collective bargaining law was passed. And the law has worked. There have been no safety forces work stoppages in Ohio since the law was passed.

Only through collective bargaining do American workers still have a voice. Still, this right is being attacked.

The New Jersey Statehouse passed a bill destroying the right of public sector unions to collectively bargain over health care and pension issues. These efforts to turn back the clock on public safety and on those who protect and serve are unacceptable.

Today I rise in support of the workers of Wisconsin; I rise in support of the workers of Ohio; I rise in support of the workers of my home State of New Jersey. I rise today in support of the millions of Americans who stand as proud union members seeking fair labor treatment and a fair shot at the American Dream.

I have been protected by unions. I worked as a truck driver; I worked as a teacher; I worked on the docks of Newark; I worked as a waiter; I worked in the breweries of Newark—all of them protected by strong unions. And that's what helped me get through college and helped me get to the United States Congress.

□ 1100

Today, I stand with 99 of my House colleagues to speak on H. Res. 452,